

Attached maintenance section vital to battery success

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Hello to the all friends and family of the Wolfpack!

As we head into the mid-way point of the deployment, we would like to thank all of spouses and families holding down the households in support of the Wolfpack Soldiers serving in Baghdad. Your dedication and encouragement is absolutely crucial to the moral and welfare of the Soldiers here. Consequently, you will be pleased to know that overall moral and quality of life in the unit is outstanding and constantly improving!

Since our arrival, position improvement has been a consistent theme and we have expanded this work ethic beyond our physical work areas into training, and moral and welfare as well.

Work sites on the radars, in the command Post, and in the motor pool are constantly improving as new structures are added. All Soldiers are reaping the benefits of their labor in shaded and A/C-controlled work areas as the temperature during the day continues to rise.

Training has become increasingly important in order to maintain our proficiency in daily and combat tasks to ensure we stay focused on our mission over the next coming months.

New moral-boosting events have been implemented into the unit's weekly and monthly schedule.

Once a week, we have been hosting an Xbox Madden tournament. 1st Sgt. Brian Bruce is a consistent challenger each week, although I am not sure how much credit the soldiers give to his button-mashing skills.

Monthly we have been having barbeques. Our first barbeque, at the beginning of June, was a huge hit. Sgt. Jason Young has since been appointed the unit's Master Chef after spending the entire day behind a grill cooking steaks, hamburgers and hot dogs for the unit.

To close the event, we promoted Spcs. Anthony D'Aloisio, Brandon Burks and Gary Ferrell to sergeant and awarded Army Achievement Medals to Cpl Maryvelisse Cruz, Spc. Michael Ash, Pfc. Allen Jones, and Pfc. Christopher Jones—most of whom are from the maintenance section, our section in focus for this month.

An easy rival for one of the hardest working sections in the unit, the maintenance section is led by Young, who deployed with the unit during the 4th Infantry Division's last deployment to Iraq, when the Battery was Company C, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery. The section is comprised of Burks, Cpl. Jason Holmes, Cruz, Ash, Spc. Robert Cornejo, Pfc. Christopher Jones, Pfc. Allen Jones, Pvt. Oliver Yeboah and Pvt. Troy Bass.

This section has served as the unit's backbone, supporting the full spectrum of the Battery's combat operations throughout the deployment and playing a very significant role in our success thus far.

Although attached to the unit from 589th Brigade Support Battalion, we have adopted this section, as we have with all of our attached sections, into the Wolfpack family as one of our own.

We simply could not be more pleased with their performance! Early in the deployment, the section set the bar high in the Fires Brigade with an M1114 up-armored HMMWV service schedule so rigorous and thorough that it has yet to be matched by any other unit in the Brigade. Their hard work has paid dividends on the road with zero break downs for any of the unit's vehicles on any convoys.

Equally admirable has been the tireless work performed by our generator mechanics on the hill. Their efforts have been validated by their contributions to maintaining the unit's operational readiness rating at a level unheard of amongst target acquisition batteries.

Currently, the section is working to compete for the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence in the small unit category. This extremely prestigious and exclusive award will pit the A/26 FA maintenance program against small units across the entire Army! Nevertheless, the command team is more than confident in our ability to compete and gain the recognition deserving of the outstanding performance of our maintenance section.

In closing, I would like to reiterate our thanks to everyone at home. As we prepare for the second half of the deployment, you will hear your Soldiers begin to speak of the preparations we're making for our return home. Please maintain the positive reinforcement that has kept morale so high thus far as we head into the coming months. WOLFPACK!